



## **USS DECATUR (DDG 73)**

### **Historical Narrative for 2005**

USS DECATUR (DDG 73) started the year 2005 having just completed a berth shift from Broadway Pier back to Naval Station San Diego. The first several months of the year were characterized by short underway periods, each lasting less than a week, during which the ship focused on engineering training and exercises.

In May, DECATUR transited up the Californian coast to Port Hueneme, where she participated in the annual SEABEE Days event. On her return to San Diego, the crew distinguished itself with an excellent performance during the Final Battle Problem.

A large part of June was spent visiting the Pacific Northwest. DECATUR first traveled to Portland, Oregon, traveling up river and under more than half a dozen bridges in order to participate in the renowned Portland Rose Festival. After departing Portland, the ship continued northward, conducting sonar testing in Canada's Nanoose operating area and anchoring each night in the unparalleled beauty of Nanoose Harbor. In addition to the extensive testing, several officers and crewmembers participated in crew swaps with the Canadian frigate HMCS Calgary, offering an opportunity to expand cultural awareness and strengthen ties. DECATUR broke up the time in the OPAREA with a three-day visit to Victoria.

DECATUR's crewmembers were able to enjoy several weeks with their families before getting underway again for the second half of July. The operations in the SOCAL OPAREA, including several live fire exercises, proved to be excellent training opportunities for the Midshipman onboard who were participating in their CORTRAMID summer training.

In August DECATUR traveled back up the coast the short distance to Seal Beach, where she received her ammunition onload in preparation for the upcoming deployment. The morning that the ship was scheduled to return to her home port, dozens of spouses, parents, siblings, children, and friends of DECATUR Sailors made the trip up to Seal Beach via bus so that they could then experience what it was like to be underway. The trip back down the coast to San Diego was held on a lovely day, and numerous family members and friends learned about the watches their Sailors stood, toured the ship, and even saw several whales.

While underway in September, fifteen business executives, attorneys, religious leaders and public servants took a break from the rigors of their normal routines to experience a day at sea as part of the successful Leaders to Sea program. In addition to tours of the ship, the guests observed routine drills, evolutions, and exercises such as a replenishment at sea (RAS), an integrated surface and subsurface warfare scenario, a main machinery space fire drill, helicopter deck landing qualifications, ship-handling, small arms qualifications, the firing of both the five-inch gun and the Close-In Weapons System (CIWS), and general quarters.

A berth shift back to Broadway Pier in October gave DECATUR the opportunity to participate in San Diego Fleet Week. It was then time for the three-week long exercise COMPTUEX, which challenged and strengthened the abilities of every crewmember on board.

After returning to San Diego in November, half of the crew enjoyed a well-deserved holiday stand-down period in anticipation of the upcoming deployment. It was then time to head back out to sea for an intense multi-unit JTFEX exercise, after which the other half of the crew enjoyed its holiday stand-down period.

By the end of the year, DECATUR had completed all of the necessary pieces of the pre-deployment puzzle. She had excelled in everything from the Underway Demonstration in April, in which the crew earned a rare Above Average grade, to the extensive exercises that comprised JTFEX. Upon returning from holiday leave, the crew and the ship would be ready for the ship's fourth deployment to the Western Pacific beginning January 4, 2006.

## **USS DECATUR (DDG 73) EVENTS, JAN-DEC 2005**

01 JAN – 03 JAN	Ready Duty Ship
04 FEB	Moored to a buoy, TOW-EX
07 FEB – 11 FEB	Underway SOCAL, TSTA Engineering Training
21 MAR – 25 MAR	Underway, Engineering Week
07 APR – 08 APR	Underway, FEP
12 APR – 22 APR	Underway, TAR ESG INT, including UD
16 MAY – 22 MAY	C5RA, SEABEE Days Port Visit
23 MAY – 26 MAY	TAR ESG FBP
09 JUN – 13 JUN	Inport Portland, OR for Portland Rose Festival
13 JUN – 24 JUN	Underway in Nanoose, British Columbia OPAREA
18 JUN – 20 JUN	Inport Victoria, British Columbia
18 JUL – 29 JUL	Underway SOCAL; CORTRAMID, RRSB Group Sail
09 AUG – 11 AUG	Underway SOCAL
15 AUG – 18 AUG	Inport Seal Beach, CA; Ammunition Onload
18 AUG	Family Day Cruise, Seal Beach to San Diego
15 SEP – 16 SEP	Underway SOCAL
19 SEP – 23 SEP	Underway SOCAL; Leaders to Sea
03 OCT – 06 OCT	Fleet Synthetic Training
07 OCT – 11 OCT	Berth Shift to Broadway Pier; Columbus Day
17 OCT – 09 NOV	COMPTUEX
01 DEC	Holiday Party
06 DEC – 16 DEC	JTFEX